



FAIRVIEW SCHOOL

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Mrs. Eleanor Macaulay, Principal
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Eagles for Excellence

March 22nd, 2019

Dear Jackson County Commissioners,

I am writing to ask for your help. The students that are part of the Fairview School Science Olympiad have earned a bid to the State Science Olympiad competition in Raleigh. At their regional qualifying competition in Asheville, the students were the first-place overall team. In the twenty-three individual events that make-up a competition, the students earned ten (10) first-place medals and ten (10) second place medals; it was an impressive victory. As their coach, I am very proud of these students; they represent both Jackson County and its schools very well.

The commitment of these students is astounding. They have been practicing after school for twelve hours (12hrs) each week since August. In addition to regular after school practices, they have also practiced most Saturday mornings since August. During their practices, the students have studied topics from all of the scientific disciplines, including physics, chemistry, geology, ecology, electronics, biology, and anatomy/physiology. In most cases, these sixth through eighth grade students are studying college-level material to prepare for their events.

While a bid to the state competition can be exciting, there is another sad reality. This multi-day field trip to Raleigh is costly; hotel accommodations, meals, and activity bus fees add up. For some families, the financial burden will be too great; they simply will not be able to afford the roughly \$150 that it costs for their child to participate. As someone who grew up in a family where there was not usually "extra" money, it is heartbreaking.

As you may have already guessed, I need your help funding this trip to the State competition. For the thirty (30) students who have earned the trip, our costs for a two-night hotel stay will total roughly \$2,500, while activity bus fees to Raleigh and back will total roughly \$650. Last year, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners contributed \$3,000 to help offset the cost of this trip and, for the first time, all students were able to attend.

I am hopeful that the present Board of Commissioners can once again help make this trip a reality for some of Jackson County's best and brightest students. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Ray Crawford
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